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TENNESSEE 2015 WHEAT FORECAST AND MAY HAY STOCKS

Tennessee farmers expect to harvest 28.3 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2015 according to the Tennessee Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The expected crop for 2015 would be down 10 percent from the previous year. Farmers seeded 470,000 acres last fall with 410,000 acres to be harvested for grain. Based on crop conditions as of May 1 and assuming a normal growing season, farmers expect a yield of 69.0 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels from 2014. Acres for other uses totaled 60,000 acres and will be used as cover crop or cut as silage or hay.

As of May 11, winter wheat was rated 0 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 56 percent good and 26 percent excellent. Crop progress is 79 percent headed compared to 63 percent at this time last year and 81 percent for the five-year average.

Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.47 billion bushels, up 7 percent from 2014. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 33.8 million acres, up 5 percent from last year. As of May 1, the U.S. yield was forecast at 43.5 bushels per acre, up 0.9 bushels from last year.

As of May 1, **Tennessee** on-farm **hay stocks** totaled 630,000 tons, unchanged from May 1, 2014 stocks. Farmers have used 79 percent of their hay stocks since December 1, 2014.

Producers are cutting and baling hay in the state as conditions for curing are better. Reports are mixed on both quality and quantity of the new crop so far this season.

U. S. hay stocks were at 24,517 million tons, up 5,341 thousand tons from 2014.

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